

What is claimed is:

1. A printing system comprising a printer unit having a housing in which a print head is mounted for movement over a print face defined by the housing and a base station arranged to receive said printer unit, said base station having an opening for receiving an image receiving medium, said opening being located within said base station such that at least a portion of said image receiving medium received within said opening is adjacent said print face, wherein a printing operation can be executed when said printer unit is received in said base station.
2. A printing system according to claim 1, wherein said base station comprises a sensor arranged to provide a detection signal in response to an image receiving medium being placed within said opening.
3. A printing system according to claim 2, wherein in response to said detection signal said printer unit executes a printing operation.
4. A printing system according to claim 3, wherein said printing operation is executed a predefined timed time period after said detection signal is provided.
5. A printing system according to claim 2, wherein in response to said detection signal a confirmation signal is provided to indicate that a printing operation may be manually initiated.
6. A printing system according to claim 5, wherein said confirmation signal is a visual signal.
7. A printing system according to claim 5, wherein said confirmation signal is an audio signal.

8. A printing system according to claim 1, wherein said base station comprises an alignment device having alignment guides whereby alignment of the said image receiving medium in said opening with said alignment guides facilitates alignment of said image receiving medium with said print face.
9. A printing system according to claim 8, wherein said alignment device comprises at least two alignment guides whereby each of said alignment guides facilitates alignment of a different sized image receiving medium.
10. A printing system according to claim 1, wherein said printer unit comprises:
  - a print head cleaning station adjacent said print face whereby in response to a print head cleaning signal said print head may be brought into contact with said cleaning station to clean said print head.
11. A method of selecting a symbol to be printed by a printer unit from a set of symbols, said set of symbols comprising a plurality of subsets of symbol types, each subset comprising a plurality of symbols of one type, the method comprising:
  - sequentially displaying a first symbol from one or more of said subsets of symbol types and selecting a said subset when a desired symbol type is displayed;
  - sequentially displaying the symbols comprising said selective subset and selecting a desired symbol to be printed.
12. A method according to claim 11, wherein at least one of said subsets comprises a plurality of alphabetic characters.
13. A method according to claim 11, wherein at least one of said subsets comprises a plurality of numeric characters.

14. A method according to claim 11, wherein at least one of said subsets comprises a plurality of special characters including a number of punctuation symbols and a number of mathematical symbols.

15. A method according to claim 12 wherein each of said alphabetic subsets comprises a plurality of symbols, each symbol being a different representation of the same alphabetic character.

16. A method according to claim 11, wherein said sequential display steps are performed in response to the operation of one or more scroll keys located on said printer unit.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein two of said scroll keys are provided, a first scroll key causing the sequential display steps to be formed in a first sequence and a second scroll key causing the sequential display steps to be formed in a second sequence.

18. A method according to claim 11, wherein said selecting operations are executed by the activation of a select key located on said printer unit.

19. A printing system comprising a printing unit connected to a print processor, said print processor arranged to generate a sequence of images to be printed, and said printing unit comprising a communication unit operable to communicate to said print processor information relating to the previously printed image whereby said print processor is further operable to store said communicated information in a memory unit wherein if printing of said sequence of images is interrupted printing can be resumed at the point in the sequence at which the interruption occurred.

20. A printing system according to claim 19, wherein said sequence of images includes at least one data item having a value that varies in consecutive images and said sequence in a predefined manner and said information communicated

from said printing unit to the print processor comprises the value of said at least one data item.

21. A printing system according to claim 19, wherein said information communicated from said printing unit to the print processor comprises the number of images in said sequence that have been printed.

22. A printing system according to claim 19, wherein said communication unit communicates said information to the print processor after each of said images has been printed.

23. A printing system according to claim 19, wherein said communication unit communicates said information to the print processor whenever printing is interrupted.

24. A printing system comprising a printing unit connected to a print processor, said print processor arranged to generate an image to be printed, said printing unit comprising a communication unit operable to communicate to said print processor timestamp information when said image is printed.

25. A printing system according to claim 24, wherein the processor inserts said communicated timestamp information into said generated image.

26. A printing system according to claim 24, wherein said processor stores said communicated timestamp information as an associated file to said generated image.

27. A printing system according to claim 24, wherein said timestamp information comprises the date when said image is printed.

28. A printing system according to claim 24, wherein said timestamp information comprise the time when said image is printed.

29. A method according to claim 12, wherein at least one of said subsets comprises a plurality of numeric characters.

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